

DID YOU KNOW?
March is Women's History Month

When the St. Anne's Search Committee began looking for a new Rector, they considered candidates from all over the country, before finding the perfect choice in Rev. Amy Richter, a resident of Baltimore.



Maryland's Magnificent Women

Five Locals Who've Changed History

By Ann Evankovich

Maryland is home to many fascinating women, trailblazers and boundary breakers who have challenged us all toward greater equity and excellence. Many of these you know: Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, Billie Holiday, Rachel Carson, and Barbara Mikulski. Here are five more that will surely inspire you.

Reverend Amy Richter

Last fall, Maryland's first house of worship, St. Anne's Parish inside Annapolis' Church Circle, installed the first female Rector in its 300 year history: Reverend Amy Richter. Since the Episcopal Church began ordaining women in the 1970s, St. Anne's has had women in the clergy, but not in the position of Rector.

“It was easier for me because of fond memories of women who served here in the past,” Richter says.

Reverend Richter comes to St. Anne’s with 6 years of experience as a Rector in Milwaukee, plus five before that as an Associate Rector in Chicago. With Master’s degrees from both Harvard and Princeton, Richter will be earning her Ph.D. in New Testament Theology from Marquette University this May.

“St. Anne’s is a vibrant faith community,” Richter describes. “We are exploring what it means to be the church in the circle. What a great image of roads leading in and out of the church.”

Reverend Richter attributes her smooth transition in part to St. Anne’s associate priest, Reverend Gid Montjoy, saying, “It is important to have men and women serving and it was great to find he was already making sure that happened.”

Following three generations of pastors in her Lutheran family, Rev. Richter represents the growing number of women choosing ministry as their first careers.

Rebecca Alban Hoffberger: 1952–

Across from Federal Hill Park in Baltimore sparkles the fruition of Rebecca Alban Hoffberger’s boundless energy and creativity: The American Visionary Art Museum. Home to the works of self-taught artists, the AVAM is literally cocooned with the mosaic artwork of the city’s children.

“When you have an idea,” Hoffberger says, “it’s like a multi-faceted jewel that you can keep turning to see how you can make it more beautiful.”

In 1995, after ten years of planning, Hoffberger’s jewel-of-an-idea opened its doors, celebrating the creative gifts that stem from biological variance and the wisdom of different cultures.

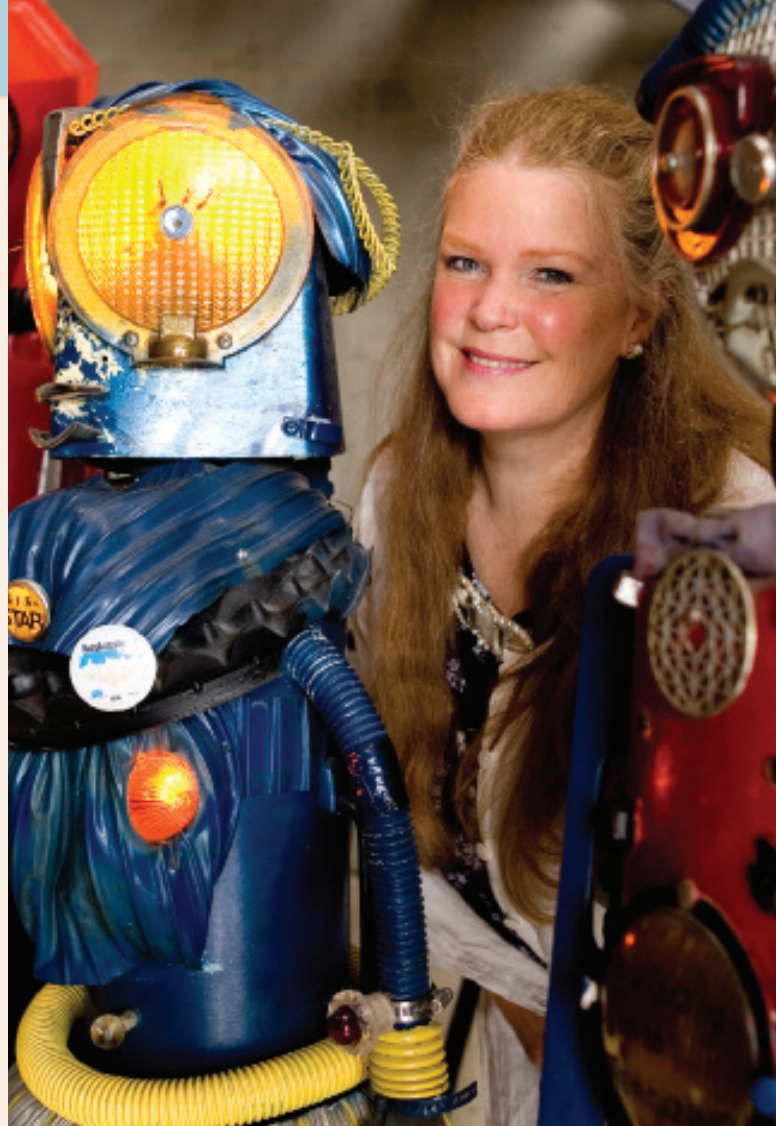
“We’re always looking for what it is to be a human being,” Hoffberger says of the museum’s unusual collections, including the giant Bra Ball, tiny pencil-lead sculptures, and entries from the city’s annual Kinetic Sculpture Race.

“Few people have a great idea, but fewer people can have a great idea and make it happen,” says Pete Hilsee, Director of Communications for the AVAM, of Hoffberger’s commitment and vision. “The museum is full of laughter and discussion, whimsy and serious issues.”

From her early Paris apprenticeship with Marcel Marceau, to her study of non-traditional medicine in Mexico, Hoffberger has always followed her heart.

“Whatever you accomplish, no matter how small it seems, do it well,” Hoffberger advises young women today. “Down the line there will be a Big Aha Moment where you will use it again. There are strengths to be gathered from every experience that will serve you well.”

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Rebecca Hoffberger adopted the idea of “I art brut” (raw art because of the untamed emotions resonating in it) for her visionary museum after being impressed by a 1980s visit to the La Collection de L’Art Brut in Switzerland.

Did You Hear?

This spring, the Free State will have a center/museum dedicated solely to recognizing the achievements of Maryland women and girls—the first of its kind nationwide!



The Maryland Women’s Heritage Center’s location on the first floor of 39 W. Lexington Street in downtown Baltimore will serve as an initial start-up space until they can secure funding for a larger, permanent home. The Center will house exhibits and displays about renowned Maryland women who have been inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, as well as highlight the unsung heroines in our community. It will also serve as a resource center with a reference library, history archive and student learning center, a clearinghouse for information about Maryland women, and a setting for special events.

The nonprofit Center is an outgrowth of the Maryland Women’s History Project that began in 1980 as a collaborative venture between the Maryland Commission for Women and the Maryland State Department of Education.

Anna Ella Carroll: 1815–1894

In the Old Trinity graveyard in Cambridge stands the tombstone of Anna Ella Carroll, inscribed to “Maryland’s Most Distinguished Lady.” Often called the silent member of Lincoln’s cabinet, Carroll was sent by Lincoln to report on the western front of the war. Although her reports were the basis of the successful 1862 “Tennessee Campaign,” her role was kept quiet to



When Abraham Lincoln was elected president, Anna Ella Carroll freed her slaves and turned her political activities toward the fight against the secession of the southern states.

avoid revealing that the Union’s primary military strategist was a woman.

The empty chair in Francis Carpenter’s 1864 painting of Lincoln and his cabinet members at the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was the first tacit recognition of her work. It wasn’t until 1881, after years of petitioning for recognition and compensation, that Congress

voted to add her to the pension rolls for her “important military service.”

Educated at home by her father, Maryland Governor Thomas King Carroll, Carroll learned more about politics than most women. Carroll campaigned for President Millard Fillmore, wrote scholarly arguments about the war powers of government, and wrote pamphlets urging Maryland toward a pro-Union stance. In her later years, Carroll continued to write, focusing on women’s suffrage.

Her words from “The Great American Battle” are as inspiring today as they were over a hundred years ago:

“Our lives, our country, our home, our hearts—this sympathy and love, constitute the genius, the wealth, and the strength of America.”



“Our lives, our country, our home, our hearts—this sympathy and love, constitute the genius, the wealth, and the strength of America.”

— Anna Ella Carroll

10 More Amazing Women

Women often go their whole lives without seeking or receiving recognition for the myriad ways they improve the lives of those around them. The 10 women listed here, inductees into the official Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, are a mere sampling of the women in Maryland who have made lasting contributions in all areas of our lives. Read more about them at www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org.

1. **Amanda Taylor Norris** (1849-1944) – The first woman physician in Maryland.
2. **Brigadier General Allyson R. Solomon** (1961 -) – First woman and first African American to be appointed a senior commander of the Maryland Air National Guard.
3. **Deborah A. Yow** – Director of Athletics at the University of Maryland, Only the second woman in the U.S. to hold that position at a major university.
4. **Helen B. Taussig** (1898-1986) – Considered the founder of pediatric cardiology, and was portrayed by Mary Stuart Masterson in the HBO film, “Something the Lord Made.”
5. **Lavinia Margaret Engle** (1892-1979) – Suffragist, politician and social activist. Worked to bring about the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote.
6. **Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson** (1889-1975) – Civil rights activist and organizer of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP.
7. **Mary Young Pickersgill** (1776-1857) – Flagmaker of the Star Spangled Banner that flew over Ft. McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812 and inspired the National Anthem.
8. **Pauline Menes** (1924-2009) – Co-founder and first chair of the caucus of women legislators in the Maryland General Assembly.
9. **Reverend Dr. Anna Pauline** (Pauli) Murray (1910-1985) – Co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the first African American woman Episcopal priest.
10. **Sol del Ande Mendez Eaton** (1936 -) – Research chemist and activist for the Hispanic community, victims of domestic violence, and issues of public health.

Juanita Jackson Mitchell: 1913–1992

Fighting racial discrimination in courtrooms and picket lines, Juanita Jackson Mitchell was one of Maryland's foremost civil rights leaders. Growing up in a fully segregated Baltimore, Mitchell knew firsthand the

pain of discrimination.

"I was a feminist too," Mitchell said in an interview with Dr. Bruce Thompson of Frederick

Community College. "You remember Amelia Earhart and all those women who were doing things that only men did? They were my idols. So I never let my sex stand in the way of anything."

While teaching high school in Baltimore,

Mitchell founded the Baltimore City-wide Young People's Forum before going on to become the National Youth Director for the NAACP in the 1930s. Mitchell organized a march on the State Capitol and two widely successful "Register to Vote" campaigns.

When the University of Maryland was forced to enroll black students, Mitchell was the first black woman to attend Law School and later the first black woman to practice law in Maryland. She continued as legal counsel for the NAACP, battling warrantless searches, inequitable hiring practices, and bringing about the integration of schools, parks, and businesses.

Despite huge obstacles, Mitchell's efforts opened doors for countless citizens. Her legacy continues with a multicultural resource center, a scholarship fund, and an annual NAACP award that bear her name.

Ilia Fehrer: 1927–2007

If the Eastern Shore had its own Mother Nature, her name would be Ilia Feher. Defender of waterways and their surrounding lands, Fehrer's efforts helped to establish the Pocomoke River as a "Wild and Scenic River" and helped gain National Park status for Assateague Island. Fehrer worked to protect the Nassawango Creek, blocking a dam that would have destroyed the ancient bald cypress swamp, home to bobcats, minks, and foxes as well as many rare flowers.



Despite boos, name-calling, and even threats, Feher stood up to builders and other special interests for the sake of the Maryland environment.



Jackson's legal work was instrumental in making Maryland the first state to integrate its schools after the 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown vs. Board of Ed.*

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Environmental activism became Fehrer's second career, after teaching elementary school in Baltimore and while raising eight children of her own. After moving to Worcester County, Fehrer began the tedious work of attending and commenting at hearings, reporting violations, and commenting on applications of development plans that threatened the natural habitats of Maryland's southernmost counties.

Named a Maryland State Hero by the National Conservancy, Fehrer received numerous awards for her efforts, some of which she shared with her husband who worked alongside her. An annual New Year's Day walk sponsored by the Assateague Coastal Trust bears her name.

"She was an environmentalist before there was an en-

vironmental movement," said Assateague Coastkeeper Kathy Phillips in Fehrer's obituary. "Thank goodness she was 30 years ahead of her time. She was a fighter." ~



**"Whatever you accomplish,
no matter how small it
seems, do it well."**

— Rebecca Hoffberger